



THE BLACK BOX TREASURES (#14)

There is an interesting term called the “black box theory”. It speaks about an object which can be analyzed in terms of its input and output, but there is no knowledge of its internal workings. This theory can be explained in a very easy way: “The child who tries to open a door has to manipulate the handle (the input) so as to produce the desired movement at the latch (the output); and he has to learn how to control the one by the other

without being able to see the internal mechanism that links them. In our daily lives we are confronted at every turn with systems whose internal mechanisms are not fully open to inspection, and which must be treated by the methods appropriate to the Black Box.” (Ashby, W. Ross, *An Introduction to Cybernetics*, 86).

Many of us probably don't know that in our Archives here in Rome we have more than 200 black boxes. Some of those treasures have seen the light of day in many publications, but there are still others waiting to be seen...

(A motherly advice #14)

Even though Mother's Day falls on different dates depending in which country it is being celebrated, the month of May is the month when this special day is held in most of the countries. For example, in the States and in Canada Mother's Day is celebrated on second Sunday in May while in Poland on May 26th. So different dates but always the same reason for celebrating, namely we want to express our gratitude to all the incredible women who believed in us from the day we were born and who inspire us every day to be a better person.

Today I would like to show you a very special letter. (ACCR 8514). It was written by Agnes Hryniewicka (1773-1824) to her son Bogdan Janski. The letter is probably from 1823, a year before she died.

“At the age of fifteen he [Bogdan] left home for Warsaw to enter the university. Before he left, his mother apparently already aware of Janski's weakness, wrote these words of advice to her son...” (Iwicki J., *Resurrection Charism I*, 9). Enjoy!

Młoy Teosiu ia mienogę dociebie tyle mowic ile
 cznie, tymy się upokorzył i przyjął wytkomacysta
 a ia Matka Kochająca i kłiwa zapominam wczem
 ci mam dać moie przestrogi i napomnienia Macie
 żeńskie, a zawsze cierpie natem, prosze pamięć
 tay namnie biedną Matkie a postuchay moiey rady,
 nietowarzył się stemy kitoży by cię do tych swiatewosci
 i z tych postępkow najprowadzali, tylko szukay dobrego
 Towarzystwa gdziebys znalazł dobrą reputacyą i miłosc
 uwszystkich, Ja ci kładę w moim Macieżeńskim
 Błogostawienstwie Bóg Ty sam nad sobą stróżem
 oycem bo wież że tak iak bys goniemiat niema kto
 mieć opieki nad tobą, i za Matkie bo ia tam niebę
 de gdzie ty będziesz, a wież że Bóg uwszystko
 patrzy Bóg dobry dobrem Religiantem i pobożnem
 a Bóg Najwyższy będzie ci błogostawit uwszystkiem
 przewuc

Moy drogi Teodorze przymij jak od
Matki która sobie wiele z ciebie obiecowała
żebym niedoszłata kiedy stąszyć otwoich
złych postępkach boby mieć zapewne do
grobu wyprowadzić, tys jest jeszcze młody ale
masz pięknie w Głowie i dobry rozum żeby go oby
nadobrze użył,

"My Theo: I cannot say all that I feel... You always humble yourself before me and explain yourself away. I, your mother, who loves and cares for you, easily overlook your faults. I should, however, give you my motherly advice. I suffer because of this ... Please remember me, your poor mother, and listen to my counsel. Don't get into bad company; avoid those who would lead you into worldly and bad habits. Look for companions who will share a good reputation and their love for you. I give you my maternal blessing! Be your own guide, for there is no one to look after you, neither father nor mother. Remember, God sees everything. Be good, religious, pious and God will bless you in all things. My dear Theo, receive this admonition from your mother, who expects very much of you. I hope that I would not live to hear of any evil deeds that you might perform, for surely this would lead me to the grave. You are young and intelligent. Please use your gifts well!"

(ACRR 8514)